

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) A sustained culture of undifferentiated avian cells expressing an embryonic stem cell phenotype, comprising a preconditioned feeder matrix; conditioned media; and avian primordial germ cells and avian stromal cells, wherein the avian primordial germ cells and stromal cells are isolated together from the embryonic genital ridge or gonad from an avian embryo at a stage later than stage 14 according to the Hamburger & Hamilton staging system and grown in the sustained culture to produce one or more colonies of undifferentiated avian cells expressing an embryonic stem cell phenotype.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the preconditioned feeder matrix comprises cells that have been isolated from the gonad of an avian embryo later than stage 14 according to the Hamburger & Hamilton staging system.

48. (Previously Presented) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the preconditioned feeder matrix comprises cells that have been isolated from the genital ridge of an avian embryo later than state 14 according to the Hamburger & Hamilton staging system.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the conditioned media is Buffalo Rat Liver (BRL) conditioned media.

52. (Previously presented) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the conditioned media comprises a supplemental growth factor selected from the group consisting of leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), stem cell factor (SCF),

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steel factor (SF), transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF- β 1), anti-retinoic acid, and combinations thereof.

53. (Previously presented) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the embryonic stem cell phenotype is maintained for at least one month.

54. (Previously presented) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the embryonic stem cell phenotype is maintained for at least two months.

55. (Previously presented) The sustained culture of claim 44, wherein the avian is chicken.

Please add the following new claims:

56. (New) The sustained culture of claim 44, wherein the preconditioned feeder matrix comprises mouse fibroblast cells.

57. (New) The sustained culture of claim 56, wherein the mouse fibroblast cells comprise STO cells.